

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 DRC-01 OMB-01 /066 W
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R 121439Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9751

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7181

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB,PINT, IS

SUBJECT: HISTADRUT ELECTIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 6977

1. BASED ON 90 PERCENT COUNT OF VOTES CAST, RESULTS HISTADRUT
SEPT 11 ELECTION, WITH COMPARISON TOTAL VOTE CASE 1969, AS
FOLLOWS:

	1973	1969
ALIGNMENT (LABOR-MAPAM)	58.28 PERCENT	62.11 PERCENT
LIKUD (GAHAL, STATE LIST AND FREE CENTER)	22.75 PERCENT	22.69 PERCENT
INDEPENDENT LIVEYALSL	6.70 PERCENT	5.69 PERCENT
RELIGIOUS WORKERS	4.50 PERCENT	3.06 PERCENT
RAKAH	2.00 PERCENT	2.25 PERCENT
MOKERDLL	1.80 PERCENT	(MAKI 1.79 PERCENT)
BLACK PANTHERS	1.67 PERCENT	
REST OF PARTIES POLLED LESS THAN ONE PERCENT EACH.		

2. COMMENTS: ELECTION RESULT IS CERTAINLY SETBACK FOR
ALIGNMENT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OPTIMISM MANY HISTADRUT
ALIGNMENT LEADERS EXPRESSED TO EMBOFF WHEN POLLING BEGAN.
IN HOLDING ITS OWN, LIKUD DID SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN MOST
EXPECTED, IN VIEW DISARRAY PARTY LEADERSHIP ON EVE HISTADRUT
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ELECTION IN RESOLVING DISPUTES OVER FORMING LIKUD FOR KNESSET

ELECTION. EXCEPT FOR SURPRISING SHOW BY BLACK PANTHERS, LEFTWING GROUPS SHOWED NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE. MAIN BENEFICIARIES OF ALIGNMENT LOSS ARE INDEPENDENT LIBERALS, WHICH CURRENTLY ARE IN COALITION WITH ALIGNMENT, AND RELIGIOUS WORKERS, WHO ARE LINKED TO LABOR PARTY.

3. WHILE ELECTION RETURNS SHOW NEED FOR STRONG ALIGNMENT CAMPAIGN FOR OCT 30 KNESSET ELECTION, PARTICULARLY OVER DOMESTIC ISSUES, MAIN IMMEDIATE QUESTION MARK IS FUTURE OF CONTROVERSIAL INCUMBENT GENERAL SECRETARY YITZHAK BEN-AHARON. RUMORS OF BEN-AHARON INTENTION TO ANNOUNCE RESIGNATION REPORTED BY RADIO AND PRESS MORNING OF SEPT 12, ALONG WITH REPORTS OF EXTENDED MEETING HE HAD WITH PRIMIN AND OTHER TOP LABOR PARTY LEADERS. COLLEAGUES IN AHDUT AVODAH FACTION OF LABOR PARTY AND MAPAM WILL CERTAINLY URGE HIM TO WITHHOLD PLANS TO RESIGN, WHICH COULD BE DISTURBING SETBACK FOR ALIGNMENT IN KNESSET ELECTION CAMPAIGN.
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